

## BOOK REVIEWS

**CLINICS IN ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM NOVEMBER 1983.**  
Neuroendocrinology, Vol. 12 No. 3. Edited by M. F. Scanlon. (Pp 858.  
Illustrated. £12.50). London, Philadelphia, Toronto: W. B. Saunders Company  
Ltd., 1983.

CLINICS in Endocrinology and Metabolism is now a well established review series for those interested in the specialty, and also for any clinician who might want to review in depth a particular aspect of endocrine patient management.

This particular edition is edited by Dr. Maurice Scanlon of Cardiff, a well-known figure in the field, and provides a reasonably comprehensive update of recent progress in neuroendocrinology. Among the chapter topics are the investigation of hypothalamic pituitary disease, current approaches to radiology of the region and medical and surgical management of pituitary adenomas. There is also a chapter on hyperprolactinaemia. The physiology and pathophysiology of gonadotrophin releasing hormone, corticotrophin releasing factor and growth hormone releasing factor and their clinical use are also covered, but it is not surprising that already these review chapters are being left behind by the current explosion of literature on these particular topics.

There are some surprising statements and omissions, eg. the statement that the presence of a normal diurnal rhythm virtually rules out a diagnosis of Cushing's Syndrome. In the radiology chapter it is surprising that no mention is made of possible side-effects of repeated CT scanning, nor is any guidance given as to how frequently this may safely be repeated.

In summary this is an enjoyable book to read, and is a good source of review articles and of references. It will not quite satisfy the requirements of those who want to be totally abreast of the most recent developments in a rapidly evolving area of endocrinology.

ABA

**A PHOTOGRAPHIC QUIZ IN MEDICINE.** By P. Ebdon, M. A. N. Reiris and  
M. J. Dew. (Pp 212. Illustrated. £9.00). London: Lloyd-Luke, 1984.

THIS book contains a selection of 106 medical photographs arranged in quiz form. The authors hope that it will be of use to all students of medicine, but it is those taking the MRCP (UK) Part 2 written examination who will find it most useful, since the format is similar to the slide recognition section of this examination. The questions are generally too difficult for undergraduate students.

The photographic reproductions are of a high quality and a good range of conditions is represented. Inevitably in a book of this type there is a bias towards dermatology; perhaps a few more neurological or classical endocrine disorders would provide a better balance.

I would recommend that membership candidates spend a couple of evenings reading this book before the examination; for such brief usage they may well be satisfied to economise by borrowing a copy from the library.

PMB

**TISSUE GROWTH FACTORS.** Edited by William H. Daughaday. Clinics in  
Endocrinology and Metabolism, Vol. 13, No. 1. (Pp 229. £12.50). London:  
Saunders, 1984.

THIS Volume sees *Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism* enter its thirteenth year. Any sub-specialty review series like this will inevitably include some volumes with wide appeal and which are of value to the general physician, and others whose readership is more likely to be limited to those in the specialty. The current volume is certainly in the latter category, and is likely to be of greater interest to academic rather than to purely clinical endocrinologists, if such a distinction is valid. The editor is no doubt correct when he states that study of tissue growth factors is beginning to affect clinical thinking, but I cannot agree that it is yet beginning to affect clinical practice.